

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 were pending at the time of examination. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 7-18 have been added. No new matter has been added. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview on February 3, 2005 and respectfully requests reconsideration based on the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,966,531 to Skeen et al. (hereinafter “Skeen”).

The Applicant's invention pertains to providing a reliable transaction audit trail in an enterprise computer system. In general, a business to business (B2B) messenger is arranged to provide a reliable communication link between an e-business entity in the form of an enterprise computer system and an associated partner and/or any other associated enterprise computer system. The B2B messenger is coupled to a Java Message Service API (referred to as JMS) that provides an interface between the B2B messenger and the various business components included in the enterprise computer system. The B2B messenger can subscribe or “listen” to a Java Messenger Server (JMS) topic based upon an associated subscription rule. When the JMS topic points to a particular native message (referred to as a JMS message), a subscription manager included in the messenger receives the JMS message and directs a message adapter to modify the JMS message into a format consistent with a receiving partner based upon both the corresponding subscription rule and a corresponding document template, or B2B schema.

Once the JMS message has been converted, the JMS message is forwarded to the receiving partner, which returns a response message. A corresponding adapter located at the receiver's end ensure that the messages and responses are converted between the receiver's message format and the JMS message format. In this way, the e-business is able to communicate in a loosely coupled manner with the associated partner without the requirement of knowing what form the partner's portion of the B2B contract takes, and vice versa. By loosely coupling the two portions of the B2B contract, the inventive messenger provides for B2B integration between businesses and their partners, that may or may not use the same message format internally.

In a particular embodiment, a business transaction audit trail of all B2B transactions is provided by an administrator coupled to the JMS. For each JMS topic that is being used to send or receive B2B messages to or from an external partner system, the JMS sends a copy of the B2B message to the administrator, whether or not the administrator is running. In those cases where the administrator is running, the B2B messages are stored in the administrator whereas if the administrator is not running, the JMS will store the B2B message. When the administrator is subsequently started, all B2B messages sent or received during the period of time that the administrator was not running are sent to the administrator by the JMS. A message monitor coupled to the administrator can then be used to display any of the B2B messages as desired.

A reliable audit trail can thus be provided for all B2B message transactions that have been either sent to or received from the e-business. In addition, the method and system of the invention overcomes the problems related to the current lack of common standards (such as API and transport protocols, schemas, etc.), requirement for reliable B2B coupling, and the need for asynchronous communications when a particular partner is not responding or has non-congruous operating hours.

Skeen, on the other hand, shows a communication interface for decoupling software applications and facilitating communications between the software components. The communication interface has two libraries of programs. The first library manages self-describing forms that contain actual data to be exchanged as well as type information regarding data format and class definition that contain semantic information. The other library manages communications and includes a subject mapper for receiving subscription requests regarding particular subjects and mapping the subscriptions to particular communication disciplines and to particular services supplying this information. A number of communication disciplines cooperate with the subject mapper or directly with client applications to manage communications with various other applications using the communication protocols used by those other applications. However, the communication interface shown in Skeen does not have any administrator of the kind that is described in the applicant's invention, and Skeen does not mention the notion of creating an e-business audit trail.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define what is meant by an e-business audit trail, a message service, and an administrator in the context of the invention, in order to more clearly define the applicant's invention and to distinguish it from Skeen. In particular, none of the sections of Skeen cited by the Examiner describes an administrator that has the capability of maintaining records of the message transactions involving the message service, and that

organizes the records by topics, as defined in amended claim 1. Furthermore, Skeen makes no mention of retrieving the stored records of the messages and associated responses in order to creating an e-business audit trail. For at least these reasons, claim 1 is neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited prior art and should be withdrawn.

Claim 2 has been canceled in view of the amendments made to claim 1.

Claims 3-6 all depend from claim 1 and the rejection of these claims is unsupported by the art for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, and should be withdrawn.

New claims 7-9 define further features related to the administrator that further distinguishes the applicant's invention from Skeen.

New claims 10-17 are directed to an enterprise computer system and have limitations that are similar to claims 1-9, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1-9.

New claim 18 is a computer program product claim corresponding to claim 1 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Conclusion

The applicant believes that all the rejections in the office action are now moot, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,

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